

6/10/04
w

Amendments to the claims:

1. (currently amended) A deck structure comprising:

an underlying deck structure including a plurality of joists;

a plurality of modular building panels, each of said plurality of building panels including a first element being relatively inflexible and of a material selected from among the group including: stone, mineral, tile, and concrete product, and further including a second element of a fiber-reinforced composite material, said second element being disposed beneath the first element and coupled thereto, said second element supporting the building panel upon two of the plurality of joists, each of said building panels further including at least one groove; and

a spline engaging a pair of grooves of an adjacent pair of building panels, said spline being secured to at least one two of the plurality of joists to secure the pair of building panels to the deck structure, and said spline having a length substantially greater than a distance between an adjacent pair of joists, whereby the spline spans across more than two joists of the deck structure.

2. (previously amended) A deck structure of claim 1 wherein the first element is adhesively secured to the second element.

3. (previously amended) A deck structure of claim 1 wherein the first element and the second element are each generally planar.

4. (previously amended) A deck structure of claim 1 wherein the fiber-reinforced composite material includes a material selected from the group including: KEVLAR, carbon fiber, and fiber glass.

6. (previously amended) A deck structure of claim 1 wherein the spline is aligned generally perpendicular to the joists.

7. (previously amended) A deck structure of claim 1 wherein the spline is aligned generally parallel to a joist.